

RECENT LITERATURE.

Davie's *Nests and Eggs of North American Birds*.¹—The fifth edition of this useful book contains seventy-nine pages more than the preceding edition,² the increase in size being due in part to the addition of new matter and in part to the introduction of many illustrations, some of which appear to have been drawn especially for this work but most of which are borrowed from other publications. They are very unequal in character and some of them might have been omitted to advantage, the attempt to print half-tones on uncalendared paper being particularly unsuccessful.

The text is greatly improved, much that was wanting in the preceding editions being supplied in the present one. In some instances, however, Mr. Davie does not appear to have availed himself of the most recent information concerning the species treated. Thus his remarks in regard to the Labrador Duck, Cory's Bittern, the Heath Hen, Ipswich Sparrow, Philadelphia Vireo, Bachman's Warbler, and Olive Warbler by no means represent our knowledge concerning these species. *Junco hyemalis connectens* is wrongly given as *Junco hyemalis shufeldti* and *Platyptaris alaiæ* [*sic*] is included presumably as a North American bird but on just what authority is not stated.

These errors are obviously not of a serious nature and they detract but little from a book whose value is measured by its marked success.—F. M. C.

Bird-Nesting with a Camera.³—Since our last notice of this fine work⁴ the parts have continued to appear with regularity and we now have before us Part XII, completing the third volume. Many of the plates are fully equal to those of volume I, of which we could not speak too highly, while others have lost in clearness of definition, apparently through too great enlargement, it being presumably the author's desire to make all the plates in the book of the same size without regard to the

¹ *Nests and Eggs* | of | *North American Birds* | By | Oliver Davie | Author of "Methods in the Art of Taxidermy," etc. | — | The Fifth Edition | — | Revised, Augmented and Illustrated | — | Part II. Ornithological and Oölogical Collecting | (The preparation of skins, nests and eggs for the cabinet.) | — | Columbus: | The Landon Press | 1898.—Svo. pp. [i-xi] 1-509, 1-18, i-xxi, numerous text cuts.

² Reviewed in 'The Auk', XI, 1889, 328.

³ Among *British Birds in their Nesting Haunts*. By Oswin A. J. Lee. Illustrated by the camera.

⁴ Auk XIV, 1897, p. 334: see also *ibid.*, pp. 106, 247.

size of the negative from which they are reproduced. The illustrations, therefore, in several instances (*e. g.*, the Gannets on the Bass Rock and Puffins on Lunga) fail to do justice to the exceedingly interesting subjects they represent. However, the difficulties to be encountered in photographic work of this nature are so innumerable that perfection is out of the question, and far from criticising Mr. Lee for a failure to always reach his own high standard, we should remember that his skill and energy has given us the best work of its kind which has thus far appeared. — F. M. C.

Butler's 'Birds of Indiana.'— In 1890 Mr. Butler published an excellent, extensively annotated 'Catalogue of the Birds of Indiana' (See *Auk*, VIII, 1891, pp. 383, 384), embracing 301 species, with a supplementary 'Hypothetical List' of 79 species. The present 'Birds of Indiana' is a much more comprehensive work, the former enumeration being not only brought down to date, and expanded by the introduction of much new matter relating to the habits and nature of the occurrence of the species in Indiana, but by technical descriptions and keys to the genera and species, and by many additional illustrations. It is thus well adapted to furnish the information demanded by the present greatly increased interest in birds, in the State of Indiana as elsewhere, in reference to their varied economic and other relations. In the present treatise of nearly 650 octavo pages, the number of species recorded as positively known to occur in the State is 321, with a supplemental list of 81, given as of more or less probable occurrence, from their having been taken in adjoining States.

The work opens with an 'Introduction' (pp. 515-531), treating of the position and physiographic features of the State, and of the changes that have taken place in its bird life and their causes, and a comprehensive bibliography (pp. 532-548). While this report is based largely on the notes of the author, "made principally in southeastern Indiana within the past twenty-one years," all other available material bearing on the subject is apparently utilized, for which due acknowledgment is formally made. Most of the 'keys,' for example, are (by permission) from Mr. Ridgway's 'Manual of North American Birds,' and the technical descriptions are in many instances transferred from the same or similar standard sources. Many of the cuts are from Dr. Coues's 'Key to North American Birds,' while those of the publications of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through the kindness of Dr. Merriam, have been extensively drawn upon, particularly those relating to the Hawks and Owls, the Wood-

¹ The Birds of Indiana. A Descriptive Catalogue of the Birds that have been observed within the State, with an account of their habits. By Amos W. Butler. Report of the State Geologist of Indiana for 1897, pp. 515-1187. Indianapolis, Ind., 1898. Also separate, same pagination.